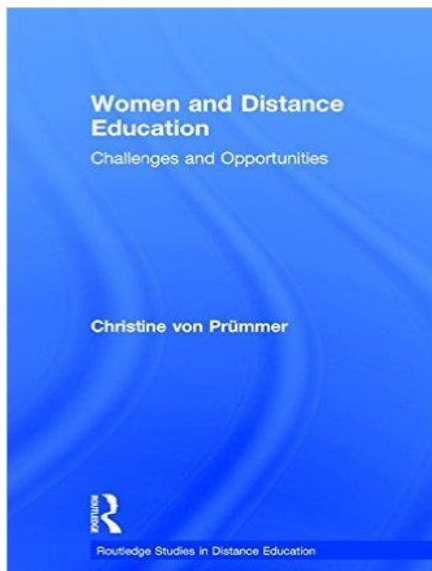


WOMEN AND DISTANCE EDUCATION: Challenges and Opportunities

Written by Christine von Prummer

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'Though some of the findings of this research based book may not be applicable to all distance learning situations and to all women learners everywhere, it does flag up some very pertinent issues for consideration. It makes one acutely aware of some of the barriers, which some women face when they enter distance learning institutions and beckons the designers to listen closely to all potential learners so that they can accommodate their needs in the distance learning experience.'

*Cheryl Ann Armstrong,
Teaching in Higher Education*

This book provides valuable insights into the situation of women in distance education around the world. A wide variety of evidence from different countries supports the conclusion that open and distance learning has the potential to provide equal opportunities in

higher and continuing education and that these are currently being missed. The author provides conclusive evidence that distance education, while involving a degree of risk to the stability of families and relationships, etc., nevertheless offers women a chance which, on balance, is worth taking. The author says that it is up to distance education policy makers to provide a framework for women students which will limit the risks and maximise the opportunities. Drawing on fascinating case study material, this book presents vital information for these policy makers.

ABOUT the AUTHOR



Christine von PRUMMER holds degrees from Smith College/USA (B.A.), Konstanz University (M.A.) and Dortmund University (Ph.D). She was Senior Researcher and Head of the Evaluation Unit at the German FernUniversität, a single-mode distance teaching university. For 34 years -from 1978 until her retirement in 2011- her institutional research spanned a wide range of issues such as access and exclusion, choice of subject areas, use of technologies, learning styles and the evaluation of courses and curricula. Since the early 1980s, her research and writing have focused on gender in distance education and gender issues in virtual, open, and distance learning environments and has done comparative research on the situation of women in distance education in Germany and Britain. She is co-author of the seminal paper *Support and*

Connectedness. The Needs of Women Distance Education Students (1990) and the author of *Women and Distance Education: Challenges and Opportunities* (2000). Currently she is analyzing the data of a large-scale survey on the situation of women and men studying at the FernUniversität which she conducted in 2011. She continues to work as a consultant on distance education research and on gender issues in ODL and e-learning.